

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. Cancelled.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for scalding of slaughtered poultry, prior to plucking thereof, wherein the poultry, ~~while are~~ shackled by their feet, ~~are conveyed comprising conveying the poultry~~ by a conveyor through at least one scalding chamber, ~~while~~ providing a controlled heated atmosphere of humid, hot air is established by blowing in steam at the bottom of one of the at least one ~~the~~ scalding chamber, recirculating the air being recirculated and blown directly blowing the air onto the slaughtered poultry by nozzles in the scalding chamber; and wherein a scalding period in the one of the at least one chamber is determined by a length and path of the conveyor and by a capacity and/or speed of the conveyor, ~~wherein the conveyor conveys and conveying the slaughtered poultry with the conveyor~~ through two or more levels of one of the at least one scalding chamber past the nozzles.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~wherein comprising~~ two or more scalding chambers with mutually different temperature zones ~~are being~~ used.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein a first zone of one of the at least one scalding chambers has a temperature of approximately 85°C.

12. (Currently Amended) An method according to claim 10, wherein a first zone of one of the at least one of the scalding chambers has a temperature of approximately 85°C.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising at least one scalding chamber, ~~with a conveyor~~ for conveying poultry in one of the at least one scalding chambers having a course with ~~a number of~~ parallel lengths including entry and exit sluices, the conveyor extending past secondary nozzles adapted for blowing humid, hot air directly on the poultry passing the secondary nozzles on the conveyor, ~~primary~~ first nozzles for blowing in steam at ~~the a~~ bottom of one of the at least one scalding chamber for producing the humid, hot air which air is recirculated via the secondary nozzles, and wherein the conveyor in the one of the at least one scalding chamber extends through at least ~~two or more~~ levels therein past the secondary nozzles.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the entry and exit sluices are placed at different levels of the one of the at least one scalding chamber.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber ~~with~~ for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber ~~with~~ for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein one of the at least one scalding chamber comprises a first zone ~~having~~ for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 85°C.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein one of the at least one scalding chamber is external to an existing slaughterhouse and the entry and exit sluices are part of a wall of the slaughterhouse.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein one of the at least one scalding chamber is external to an existing slaughterhouse and the entry and exit sluices are part of a wall of the slaughterhouse.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein one of the at least one scalding chamber is ~~adapted for extending~~ extends between two levels of a slaughterhouse building.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein one of the at least one scalding chamber is ~~adapted for extending~~ extends between two levels of a slaughterhouse building.

22. (New) A method according to claim 9, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

23. (New) A method according to claim 10, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

24. (New) A method according to claim 11, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding for chamber providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

25. (New) A method according to claim 12, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a third scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

26. (New) A method according to claim 17, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first scalding chamber comprises a first zone for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 85°C which precedes the first chamber for providing of the scalding temperature of approximately 60°C.